



PURANDARA DASA

THE FATHER OF CARNATIC MUSIC

Vol.DG453

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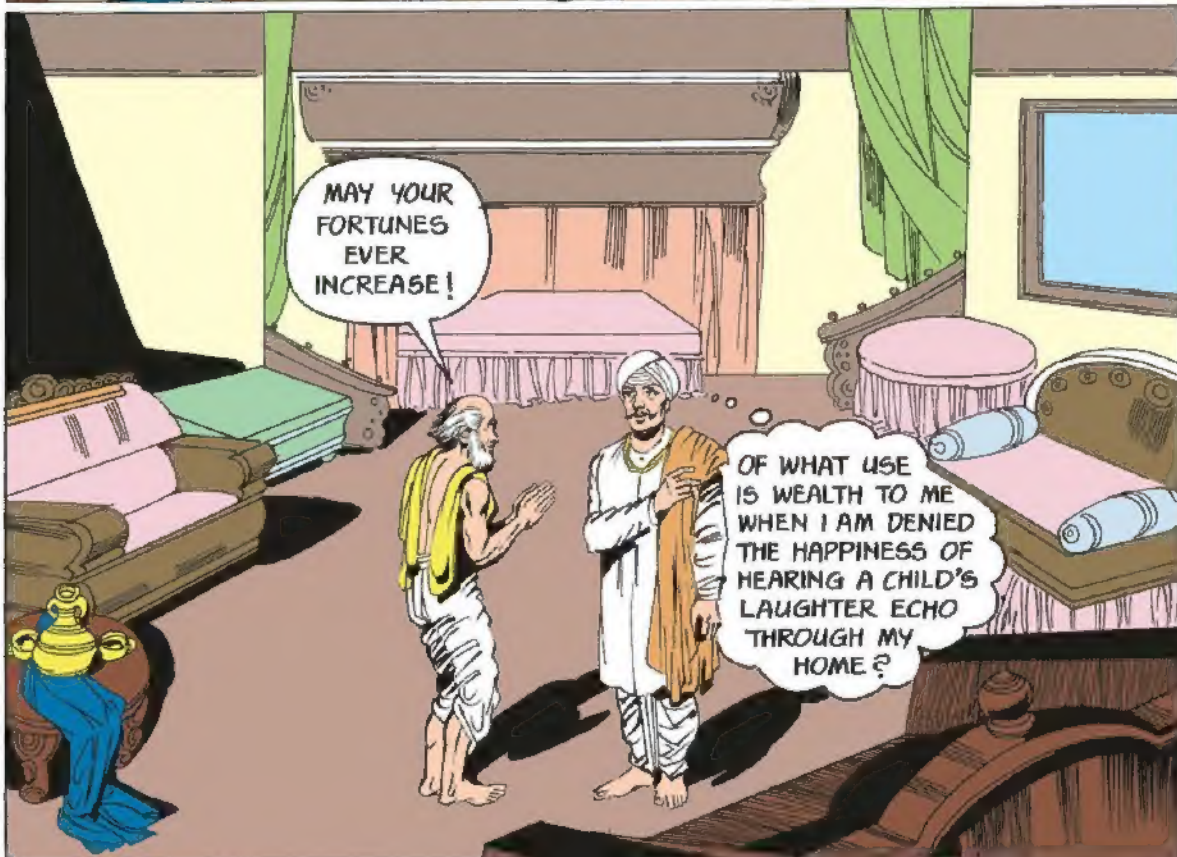
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PURANDARA DASA

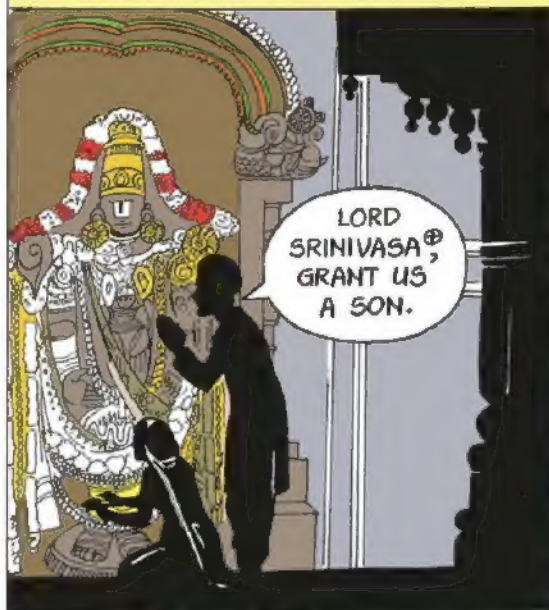


VARADAPPA NAYAK WAS A RICH JEWELLER WHO LIVED IN PURANDARGAD, NEAR POONA, DURING THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

NO ONE WHO CAME TO HIM FOR HELP EVER WENT AWAY DISAPPOINTED.



AT LAST, PIOUS VARADAPPA AND HIS WIFE VISITED THE TEMPLE OF VENKATESHWARA* AT TIRUPATI.



THEIR PRAYERS DID NOT GO UNHEARD. A YEAR LATER —



WHILE HIS MOTHER TRIED TO INCULCATE IN LITTLE SRINIVASA A LOVE OF GOD BY TELLING HIM STORIES FROM THE SCRIPTURES...



... WHAT SRINIVASA ENJOYED MOST WAS PLAYING WITH THE FAKE COINS HIS FATHER GAVE HIM.



* ALSO KNOWN AS BALAJI

Ⓢ ANOTHER NAME OF VENKATESHWARA

WHEN HE GREW UP, SRINIVASA BEGAN TO ACCOMPANY HIS FATHER TO THE SHOP.



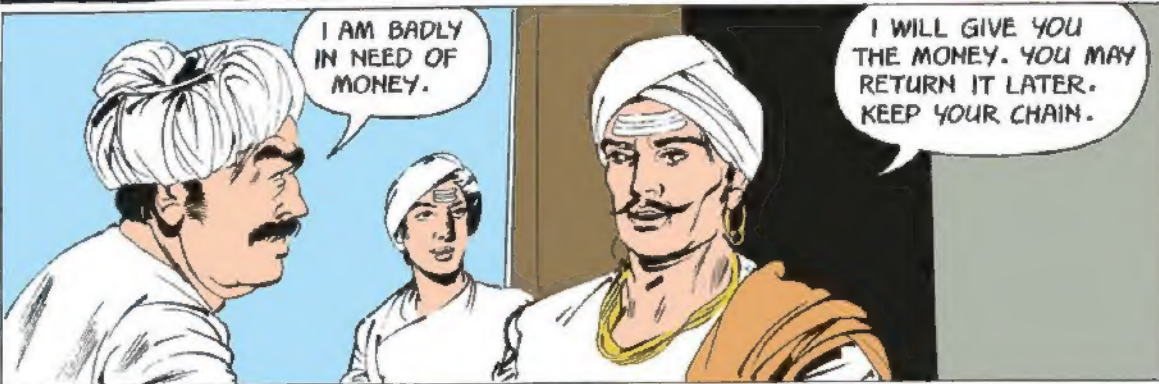
HE IS SO HELPFUL!

AT THE SHOP, HE OBSERVED HOW HIS FATHER DEALT WITH THE CUSTOMERS.



SIR, WILL YOU BUY THIS GOLD CHAIN FOR FIVE HUNDRED PANAS*?

THIS CHAIN IS WORTH MUCH MORE! BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO SELL IT?



I AM BADLY IN NEED OF MONEY.

I WILL GIVE YOU THE MONEY. YOU MAY RETURN IT LATER. KEEP YOUR CHAIN.

AFTER THE CUSTOMER HAD LEFT —



FATHER, THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO DO BUSINESS. YOU SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT THE CHAIN FOR FIVE HUNDRED AND SOLD IT FOR MORE.

I CANNOT EXPLOIT A HELPLESS MAN, MY SON.

* PANA WAS A COPPER COIN, 20 PANAS = ONE VARAHA (GOLD COIN)

WHEN SRINIVASA CAME OF AGE, HE WAS MARRIED TO SARASWATI.



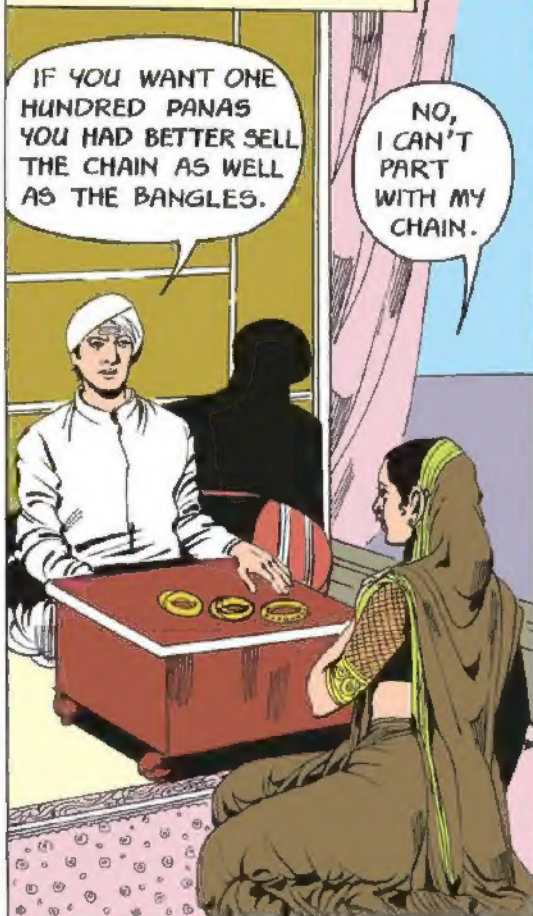
SOON AFTER THE WEDDING, VARADAPPA SENT FOR HIS SON.



YOU MUST NOW RELIEVE ME OF MY BUSINESS. I WISH TO DEVOTE MY TIME TO WORSHIP.

AS YOU PLEASE, FATHER.

SRINIVASA NAYAK'S WAY OF DOING BUSINESS WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PIOUS VARADAPPA NAYAK.



IF YOU WANT ONE HUNDRED PANAS YOU HAD BETTER SELL THE CHAIN AS WELL AS THE BANGLES.

NO, I CAN'T PART WITH MY CHAIN.



AND I CAN'T PART WITH MY MONEY.

BUT I NEED MONEY BADLY. ALL RIGHT! HERE! TAKE IT!

APART FROM BEING MERCILESS WITH HIS CUSTOMERS, SRINIVASA WAS A MISER TOO.

SRINIVASA NAYAK,
WE ARE BUILDING A
TEMPLE FOR LORD
VENKATESHWARA.
WE HAVE COME
FOR A DONATION
FROM YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU
GO TO THE LORD
HIMSELF FOR IT?

UNLIKE HER HUSBAND,
SARASWATI WAS VERY KIND
AND COMPASSIONATE.
ONE DAY —

MOTHER,
ALMS FOR
A BEGGAR.

PLEASE
WAIT. I WILL
GET YOU
SOME RICE.

AS SHE CAME OUT WITH THE RICE, SRINIVASA
NAYAK RETURNED FROM THE SHOP.

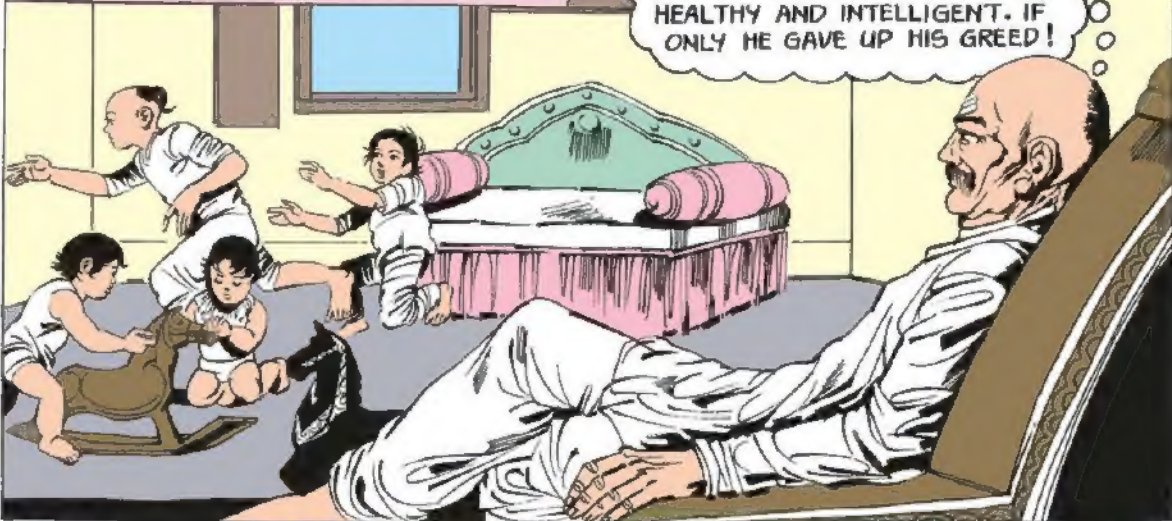
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF WE HAVE TOO MUCH
RICE IN THE HOUSE,
TELL ME. I'LL SEE THAT
WE BUY LESS.



* A PLANT DEIFIED BY ORTHODOX HINDUS.

AS THE YEARS PASSED, SRINIVASA NAYAK AND SARASWATI HAD FOUR SONS.

SRINIVASA IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SO MANY CHILDREN, ALL HEALTHY AND INTELLIGENT. IF ONLY HE GAVE UP HIS GREED!



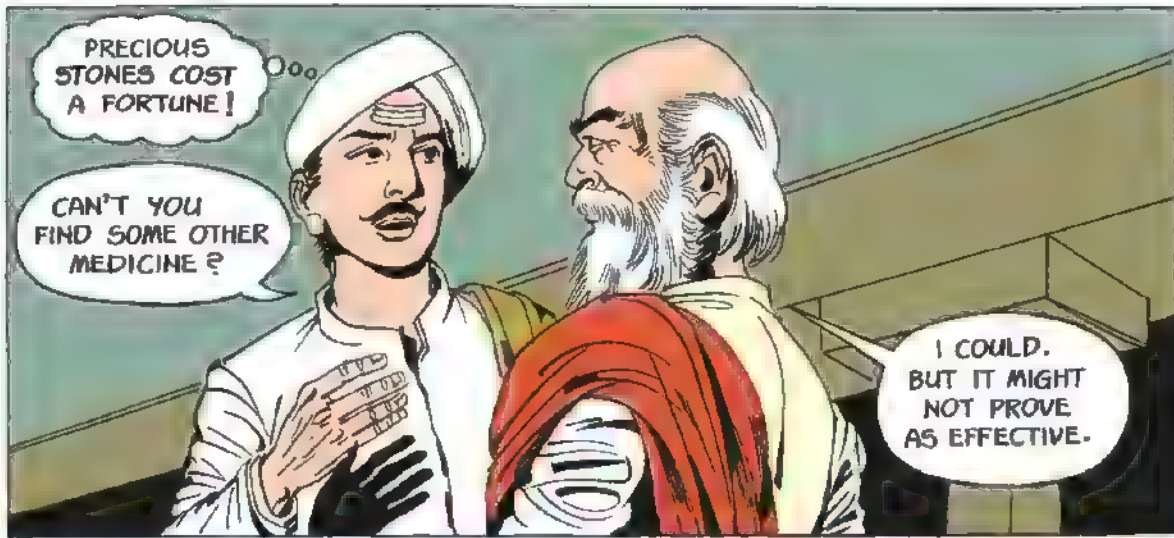
ONE DAY, OLD VARAD-APPA NAYAK FELL ILL. A VAIDYA * CAME TO EXAMINE HIM.



I NEED THE ASHES OF PRECIOUS STONES TO CURE HIM. GET ME SOME.



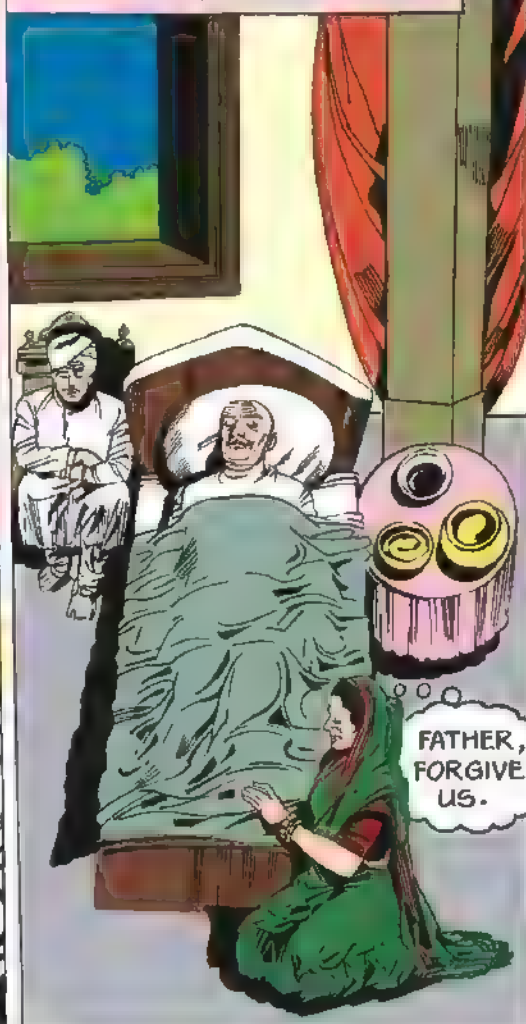
* DOCTOR



SARASWATI TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM.



THE NEXT DAY, VARADAPPA DIED.



A FEW DAYS LATER, AN OLD BRAHMAN APPROACHED SRINIVASA NAYAK.

BLESSED ONE, I NEED MONEY TO PERFORM MY SON'S THREAD CEREMONY. WILL YOU HELP ME?



I AM BUSY. COME TOMORROW.

SRINIVASA NAYAK MADE HIM WALK TO HIS SHOP FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT GIVING HIM A SINGLE VARAHA.

IMBECILE! CAN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HELPING HIM OUT.



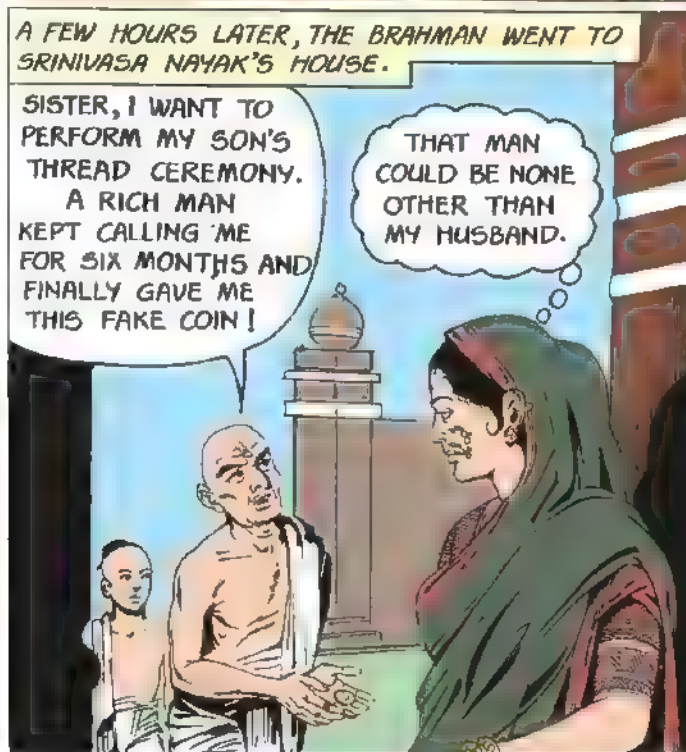
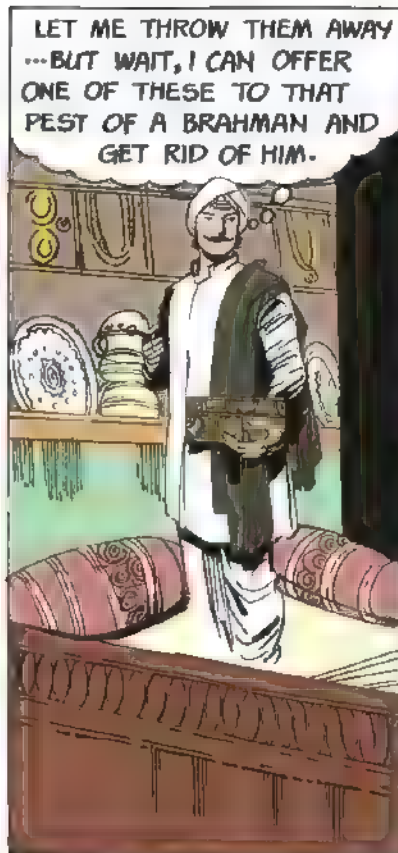
THE NEXT WEEK, AT THE TIME OF STOCK-TAKING IN HIS SHOP, SRINIVASA CAME ACROSS A HEAVY BOX.



WHAT COULD THIS BOX CONTAIN?



FAKE COINS! THE COINS I USED TO PLAY WITH!







SRINIVASA NAYAK DECIDED TO PLAY FOR TIME TO PROBE INTO THE MATTER.



SRINIVASA NAYAK LOCKED THE NOSE-RING IN A BOX ...



...AND RUSHED HOME.

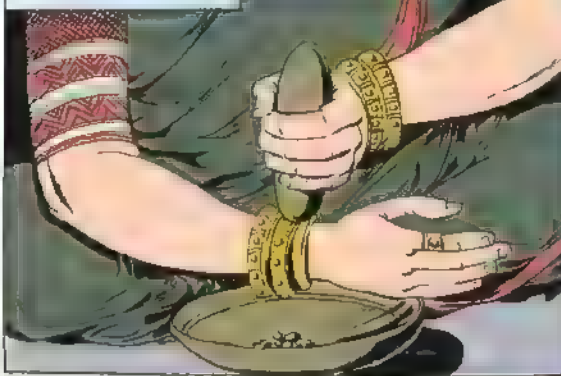


SARASWATI ENTERED THE PUJA-ROOM* AND LOCKED HERSELF IN.



* THE ROOM WHERE THE HOUSEHOLD DEITIES ARE KEPT AND WORSHIPPED.

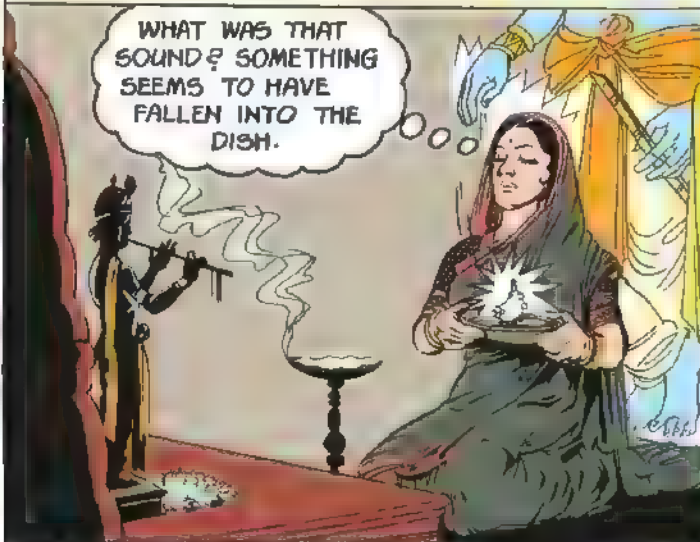
SHE DISLODGED THE DIAMONDS FROM
HER BANGLES...



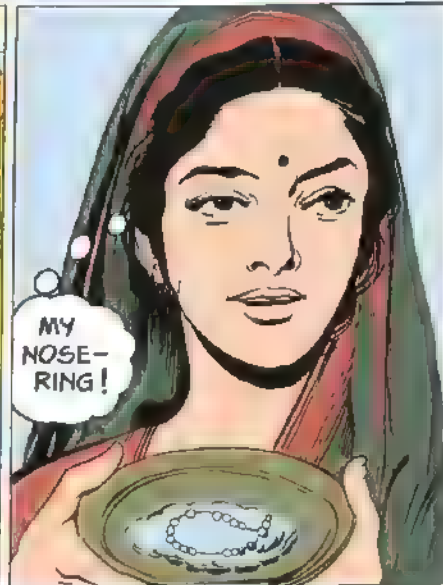
...CRUSHED THEM AND MIXED THE
POWDER WITH WATER.



WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT TO SWALLOW THE MIXTURE—

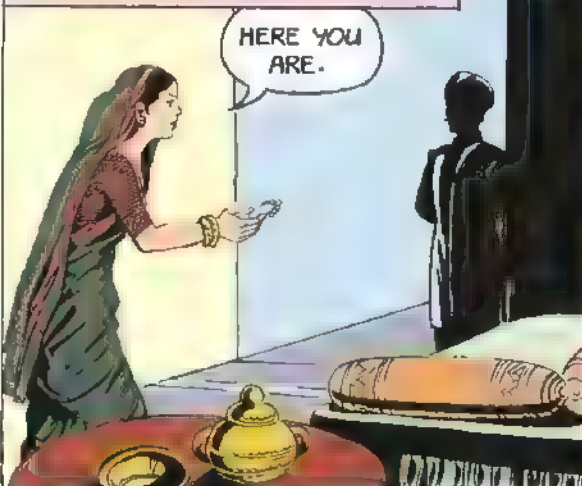


WHAT WAS THAT
SOUND? SOMETHING
SEEMS TO HAVE
FALLEN INTO THE
DISH.



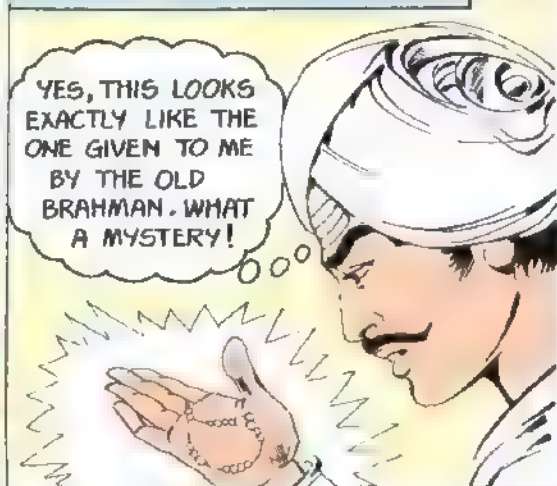
MY
NOSE-
RING!

SHE RUSHED TO HER HUSBAND.



HERE YOU
ARE.

SRINIVASA NAYAK EXAMINED IT.

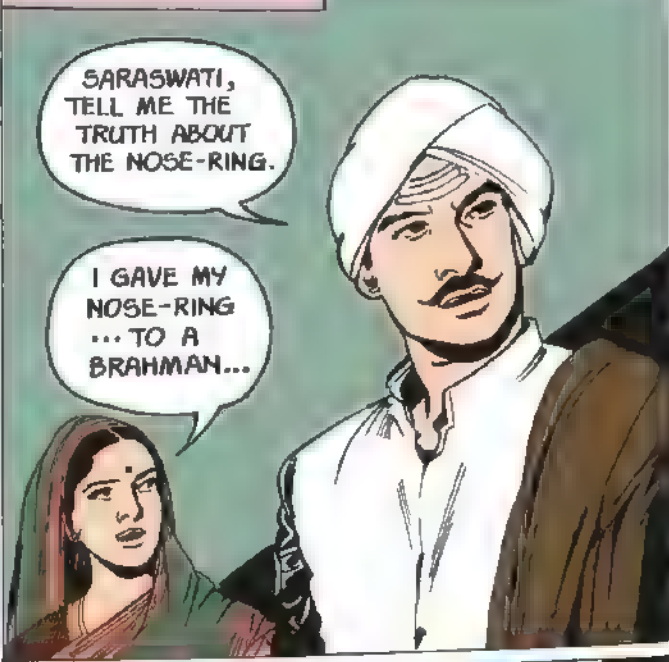


YES, THIS LOOKS
EXACTLY LIKE THE
ONE GIVEN TO ME
BY THE OLD
BRAHMAN. WHAT
A MYSTERY!

SRINIVASA NAYAK HURRIED BACK TO HIS SHOP AND UNLOCKED THE BOX.



HE RAN BACK HOME.





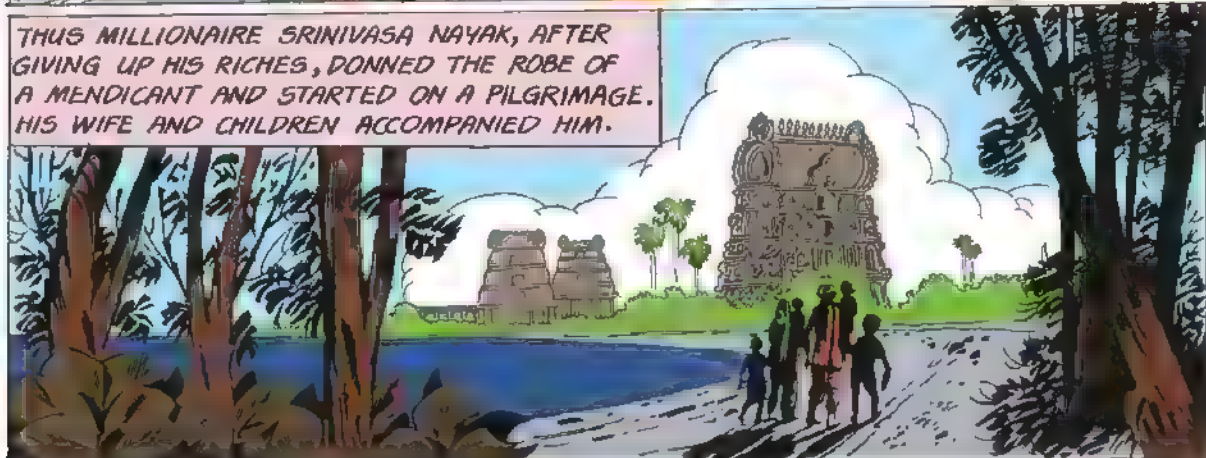
SRINIVASA NAYAK DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE POOR AND DESERVING.



HE BECAME A DASA.*



THUS MILLIONAIRE SRINIVASA NAYAK, AFTER GIVING UP HIS RICHES, DONNED THE ROBE OF A MENDICANT AND STARTED ON A PILGRIMAGE. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED HIM.



* VAISHNAVITES WHO SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO GOD, CALLED THEMSELVES DASAS.

WANDERING FROM PLACE TO PLACE, SRINIVASA NAYAK CAME TO VIJAYANAGARA WHERE HE MET THE RENOWNED SAINT, VYASATEERTHA.

I, SRINIVASA NAYAK OF PURANDARGAD, OFFER MY SALUTATIONS TO YOU.



YOU HAVE STARTED A NEW LIFE. I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW NAME AS WELL. HENCEFORTH YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS PURANDARA DASA.

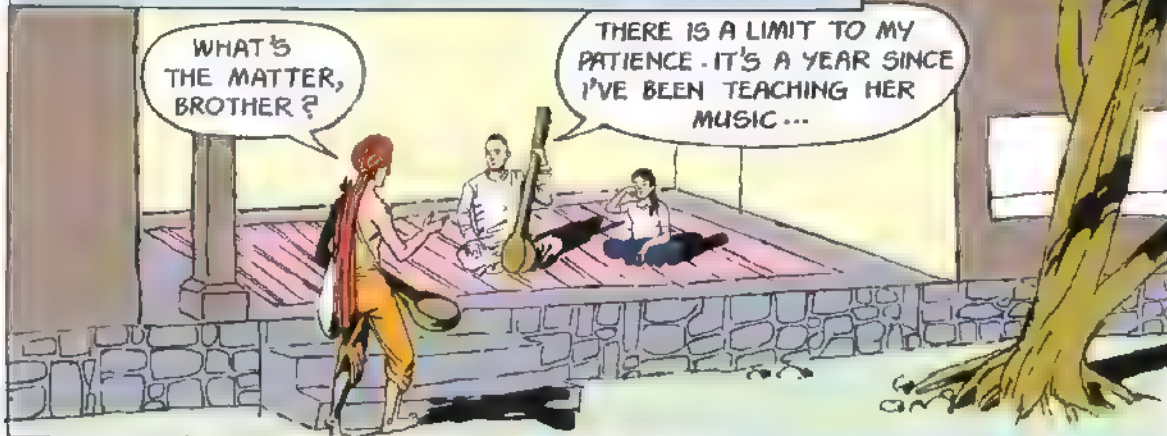
PURANDARA DASA USED TO GO OUT ON THE STREETS OF VIJAYANAGARA SINGING SONGS IN PRAISE OF GOD. PEOPLE USED TO FALL AT HIS FEET AND MAKE OFFERINGS TO HIM.



HOW MELODIOUS!

HOW PREGNANT WITH MEANING ARE HIS SONGS!

ONE DAY, HE SAW A MUSIC TEACHER SCOLDING HIS PUPIL.

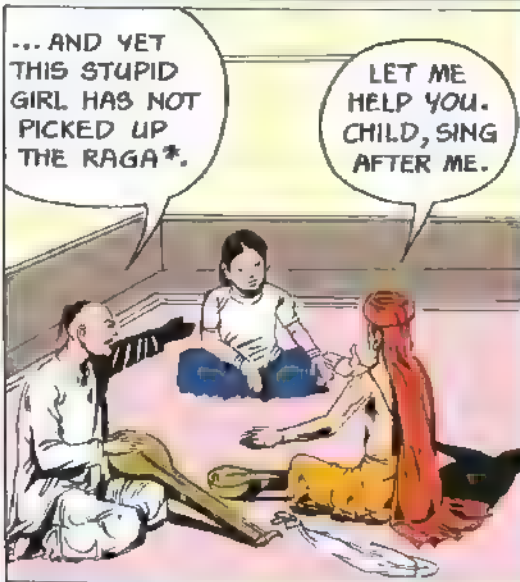


WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
BROTHER?

THERE IS A LIMIT TO MY
PATIENCE. IT'S A YEAR SINCE
I'VE BEEN TEACHING HER
MUSIC...

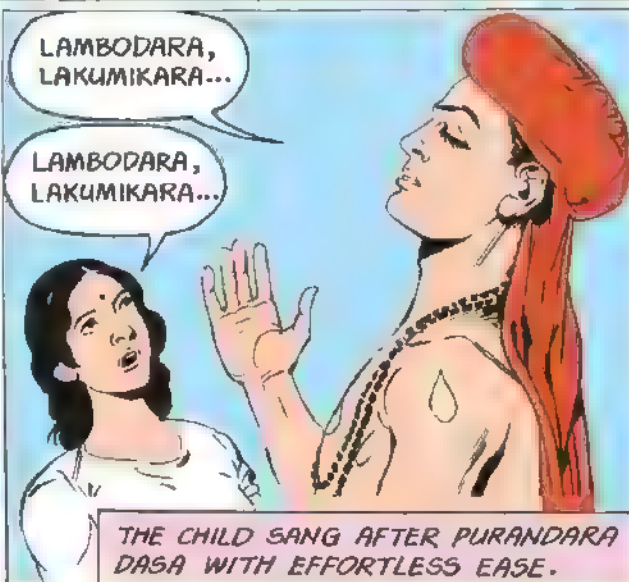
... AND YET
THIS STUPID
GIRL HAS NOT
PICKED UP
THE RAGA*.

LET ME
HELP YOU.
CHILD, SING
AFTER ME.



LAMBODARA,
LAKUMIKARA...

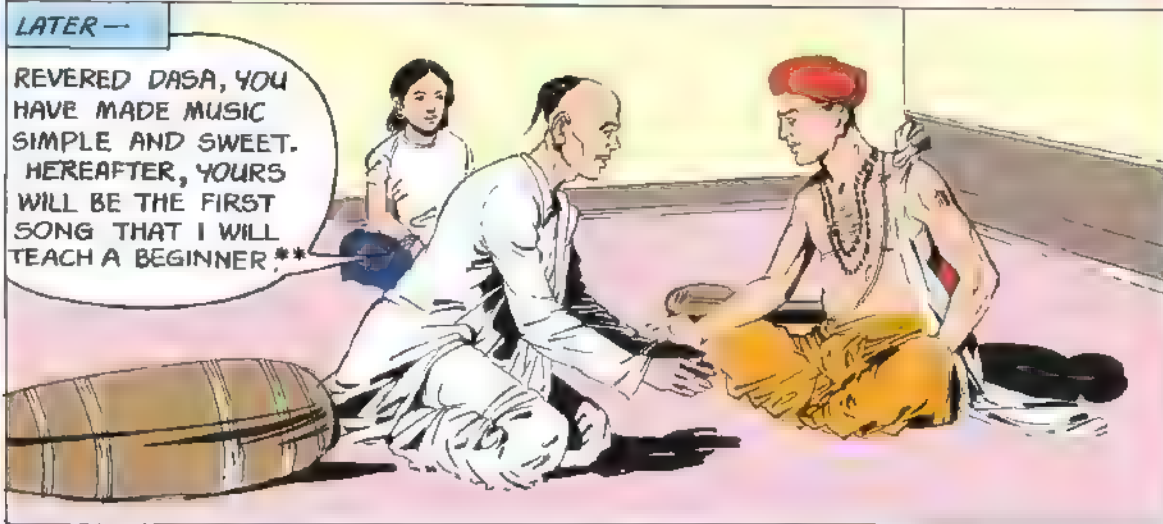
LAMBODARA,
LAKUMIKARA...



THE CHILD SANG AFTER PURANDARA
DASA WITH EFFORTLESS EASE.

LATER —

REVERED DASA, YOU
HAVE MADE MUSIC
SIMPLE AND SWEET.
HEREAFTER, YOURS
WILL BE THE FIRST
SONG THAT I WILL
TEACH A BEGINNER.**

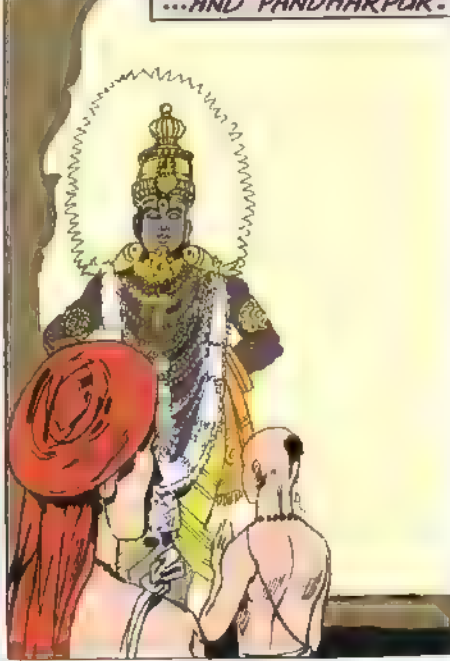


* MUSICAL MODE ** THIS PRACTICE IS MAINTAINED TO THIS DAY.

EVER ON THE MOVE, PURANDARA DASA, FOLLOWED BY HIS FAITHFUL DISCIPLE APPANNA, VISITED TIRUPATI...

...UDUPI...

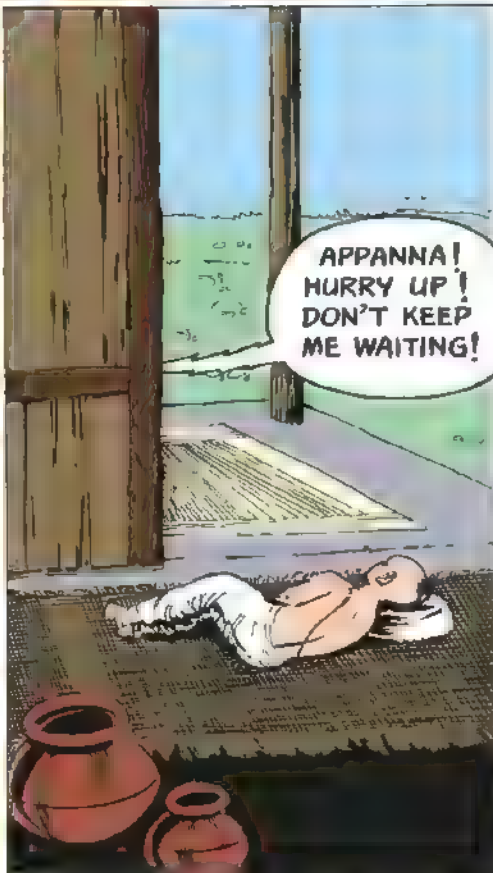
...AND PANDHARPUR.



ONE DAY, WHILE THEY WERE AT PANDHARPUR —



APPANNA, BRING ME SOME WARM WATER TO WASH MY FEET.



APPANNA! HURRY UP! DON'T KEEP ME WAITING!

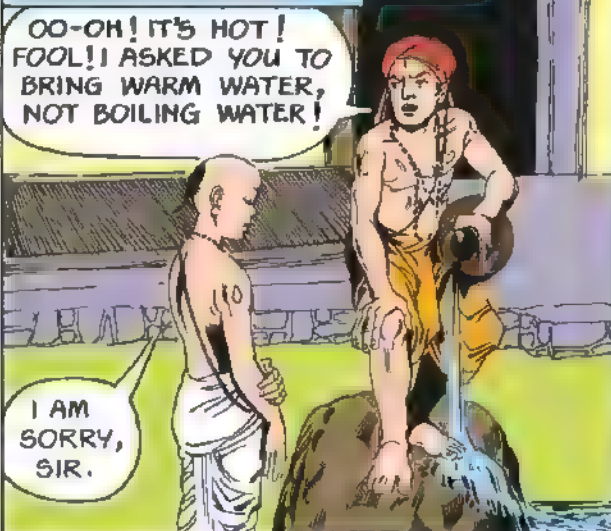
A FEW MINUTES LATER —



I'M SORRY
I KEPT YOU
WAITING, SIR.

NEED YOU
HAVE TAKEN
SO LONG ?

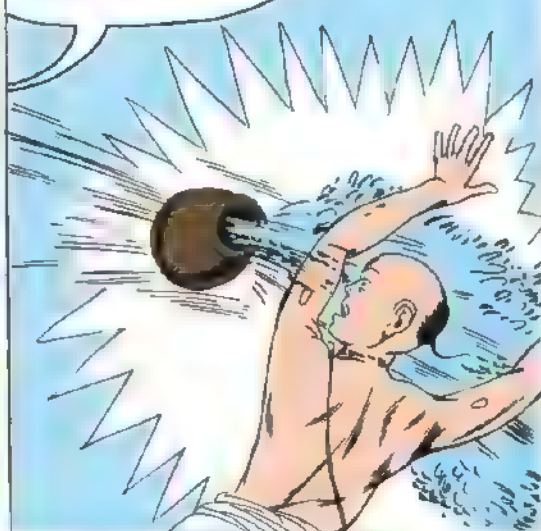
TAKING THE PITCHER FROM HIM,
PURANDARA DASA POURED THE
WATER ON HIS FEET —



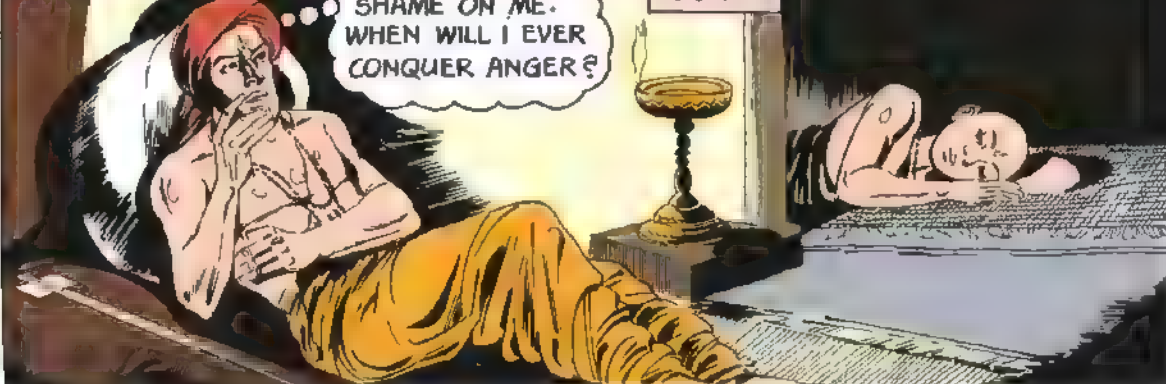
OO-OH! IT'S HOT!
FOOL!! ASKED YOU TO
BRING WARM WATER,
NOT BOILING WATER!

I AM
SORRY,
SIR.

THIS WILL TEACH
YOU TO BE CAREFUL
NEXT TIME.

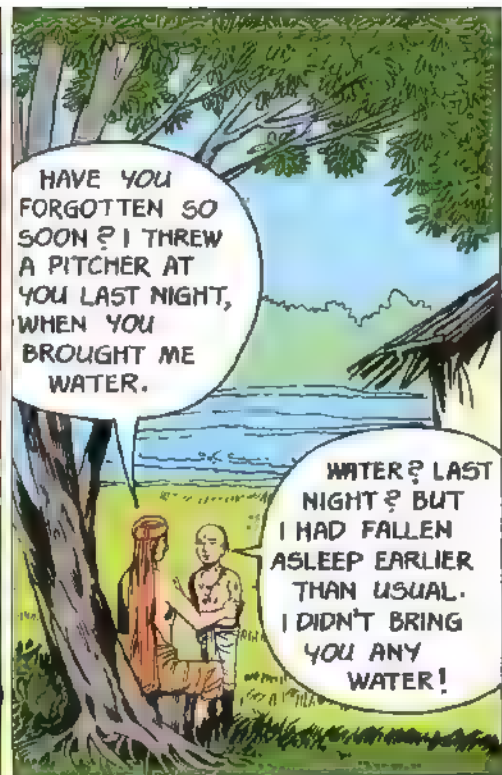
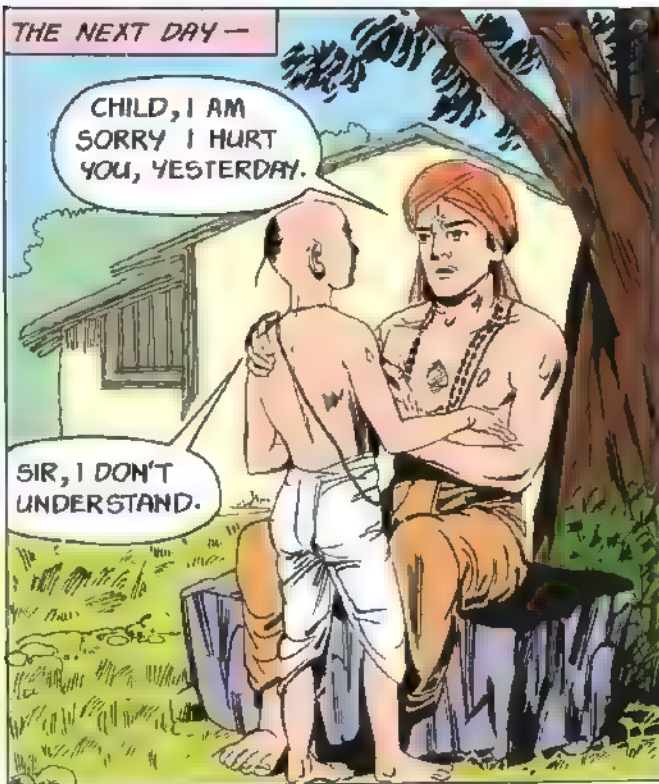


THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, PURANDARA DASA COULDN'T
SLEEP. HE WAS FULL OF REMORSE FOR WHAT HE HAD
DONE.



SHAME ON ME.
WHEN WILL I EVER
CONQUER ANGER ?

THE NEXT DAY —



PURANDARA DASA WAS PERPLEXED.

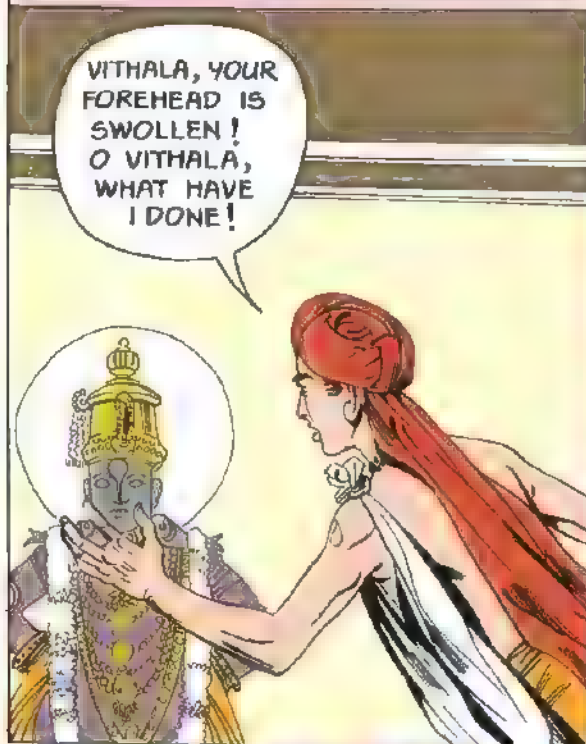


HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE OF VITHALA*.



* ANOTHER NAME FOR PANDURANG.

SUDDENLY, PURANDARA DASA RUSHED TOWARDS THE IDOL OF VITHALA.



YOU HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING, DASA. CONTROL YOURSELF. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO THE LORD.



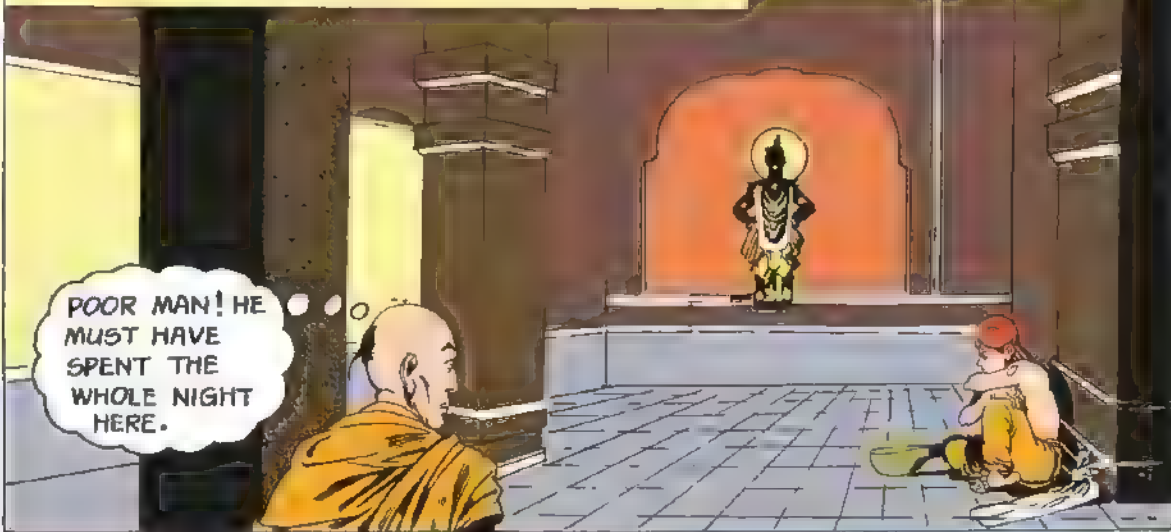
PURANDARA DASA BURST INTO TEARS.



THE WHOLE OF THAT DAY, HE DID NOT EAT A THING. WHEN THE PRIEST LEFT FOR HOME, PURANDARA DASA WAS STILL AT THE TEMPLE.

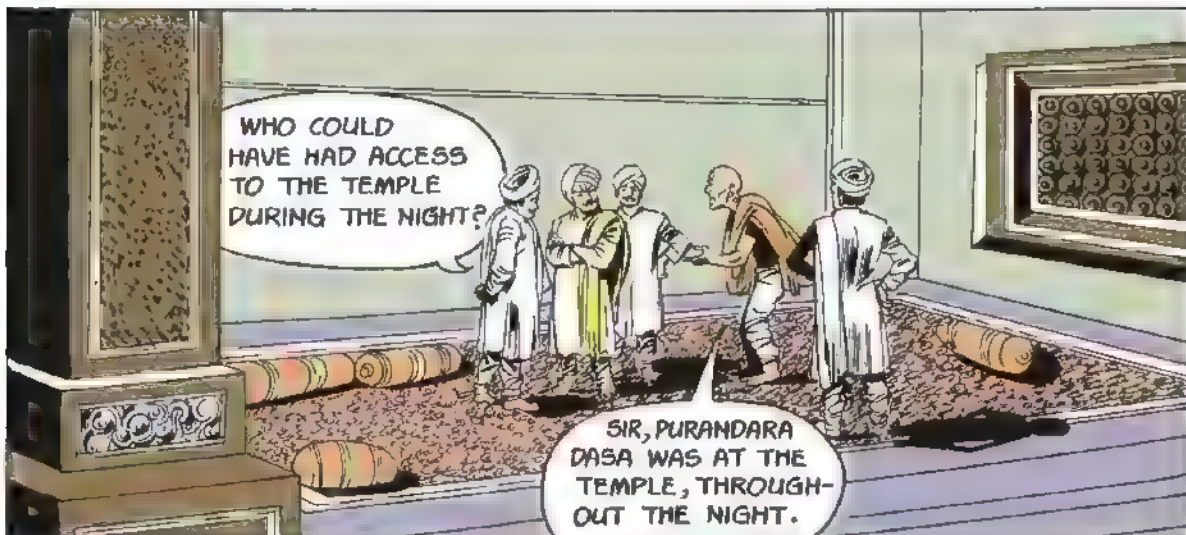


THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE PRIEST CAME TO OPEN THE DOORS OF THE TEMPLE, HE FOUND PURANDARA DASA STILL THERE.



THE PRIEST RAN TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE TEMPLE.

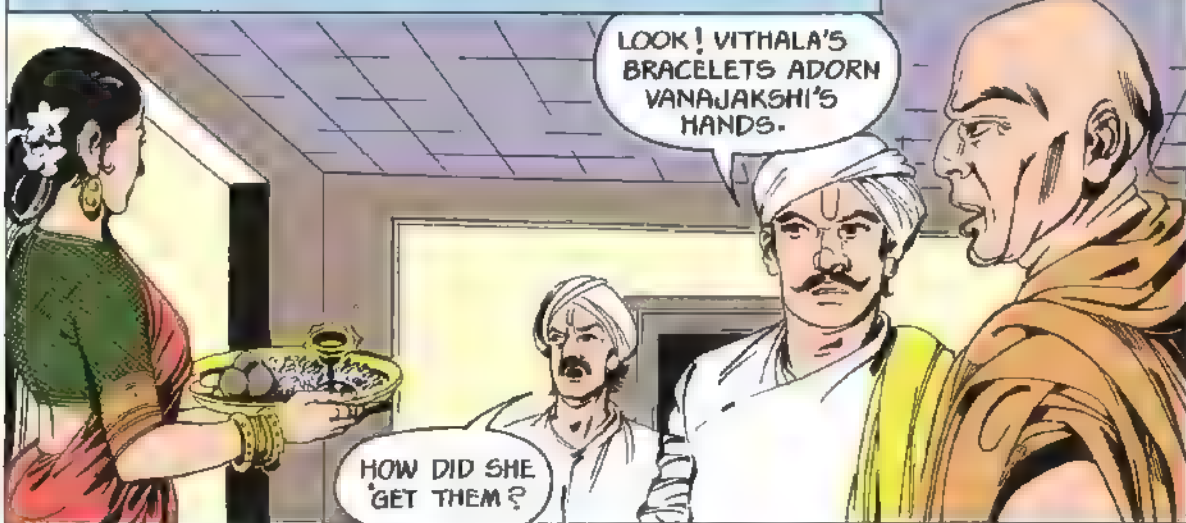


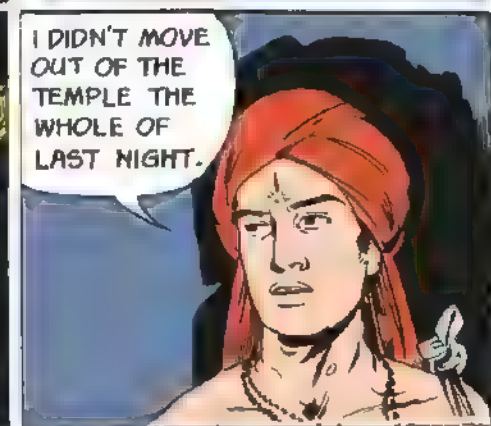
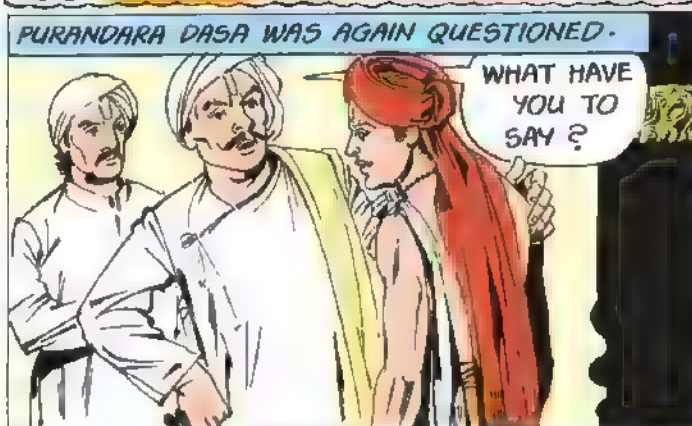
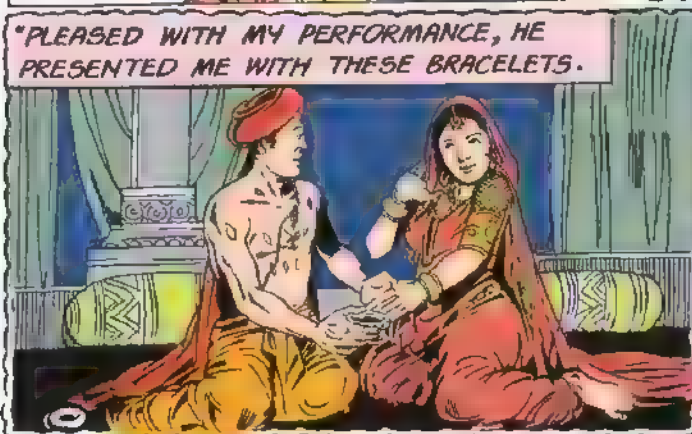


WHEN PURANDARA DASA WAS QUESTIONED—

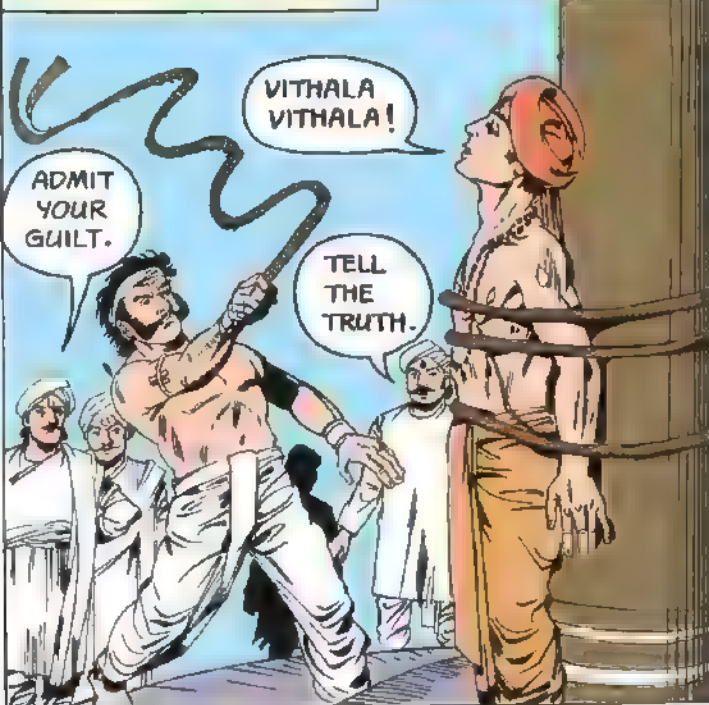


JUST THEN VANAJAKSHI, A DANCER ENTERED THE TEMPLE.





PURANDARA DASA WAS TIED TO A PILLAR AND WAS GIVEN A WHIPPING.



ADMIT YOUR GUILT.

VITHALA VITHALA!

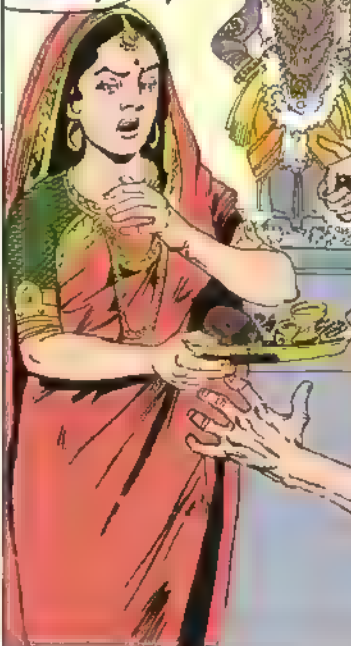
TELL THE TRUTH.

THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. I SHOULD BE BEATEN MORE SEVERELY FOR THE WRONG I HAVE DONE YOU, VITHALA.

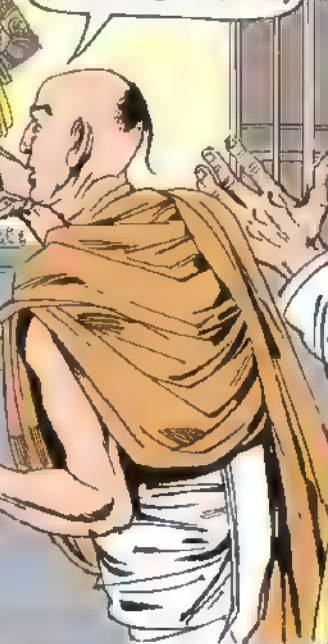


SUDDENLY —

THE BRACELETS! THEY ARE GONE!



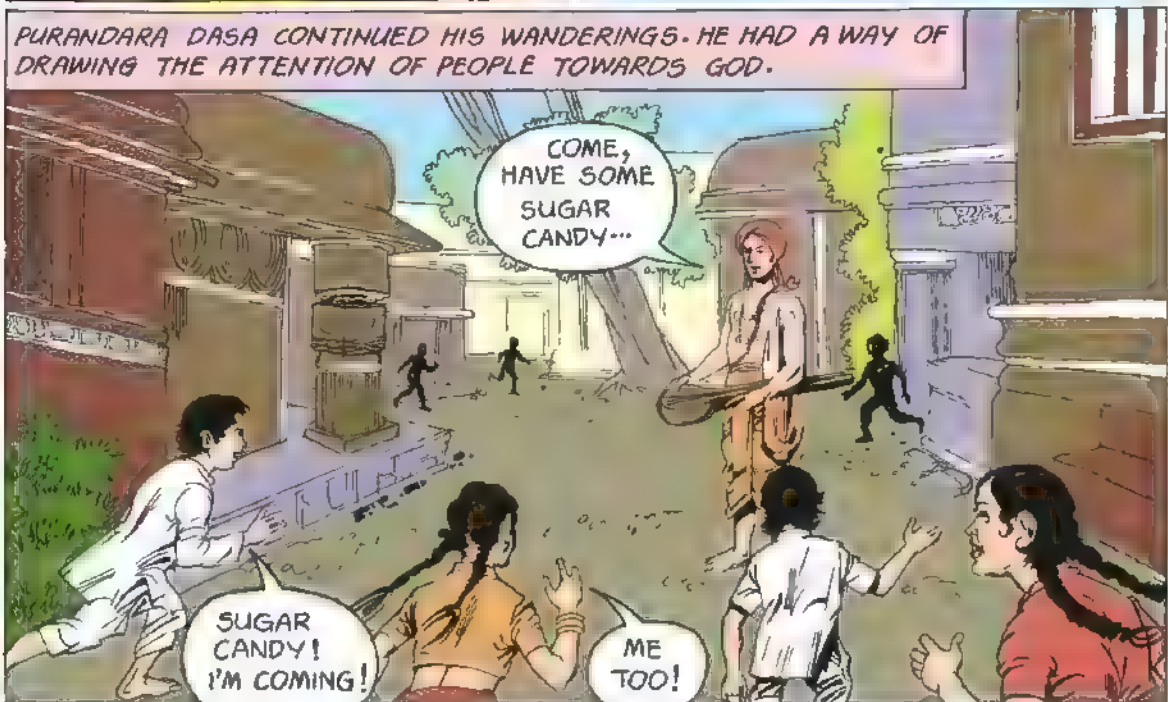
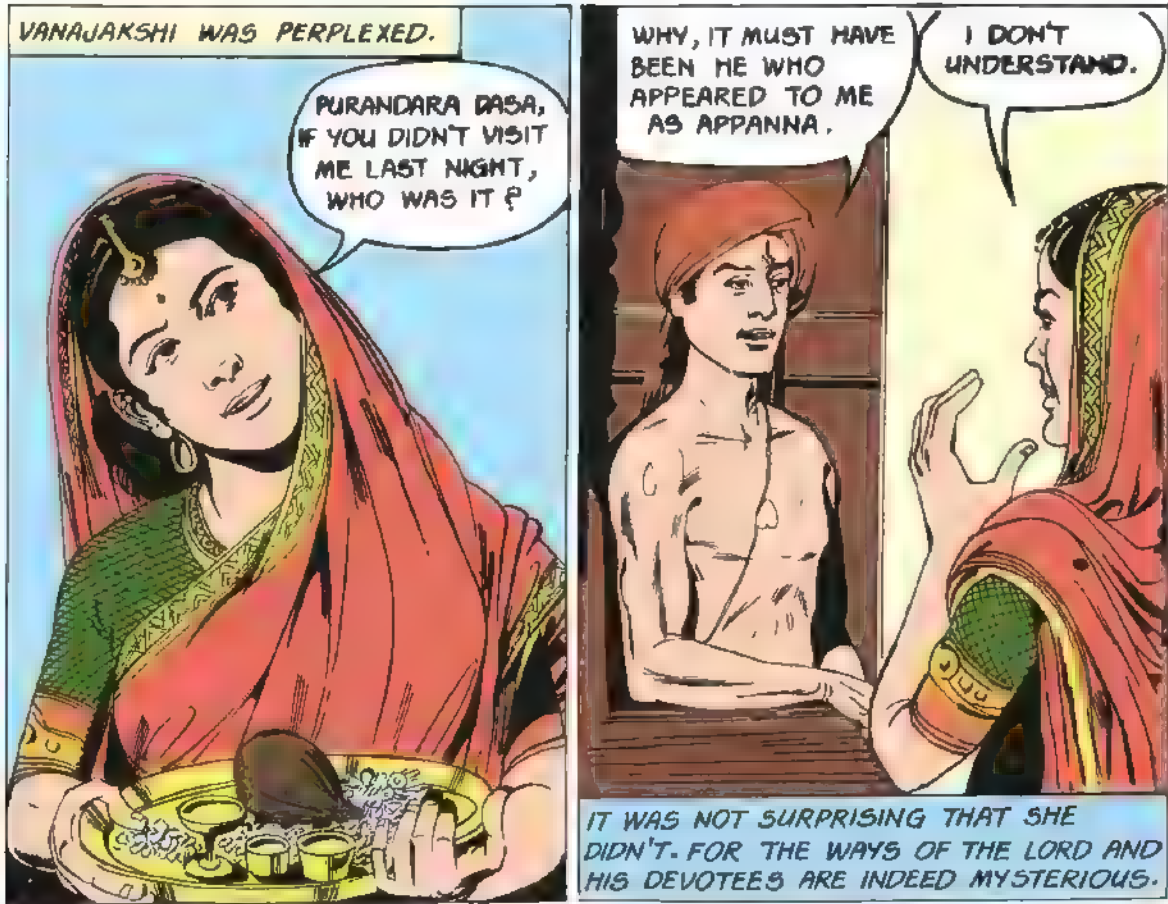
LOOK! THEY ARE THERE! AROUND VITHALA'S WRISTS!



STOP! STOP WHIPPING HIM.

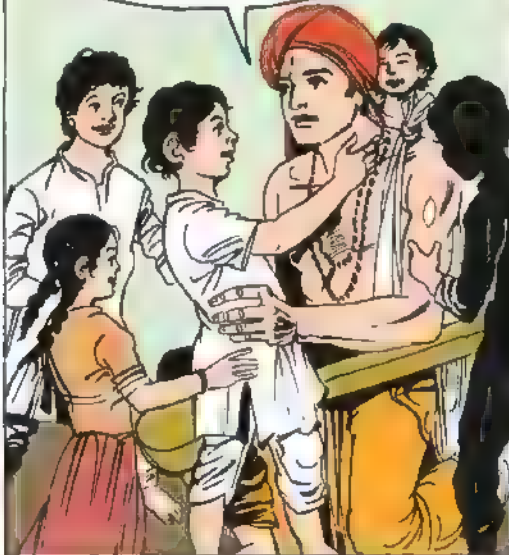


WE HAVE WRONGED PURANDARA DASA.



WHEN A CROWD WAS DRAWN BY THE MAGIC WORDS "SUGAR CANDY"—

...REPEAT THE SWEET NAME OF KRISHNA! IS THERE ANYTHING SWEETER THAN THAT?



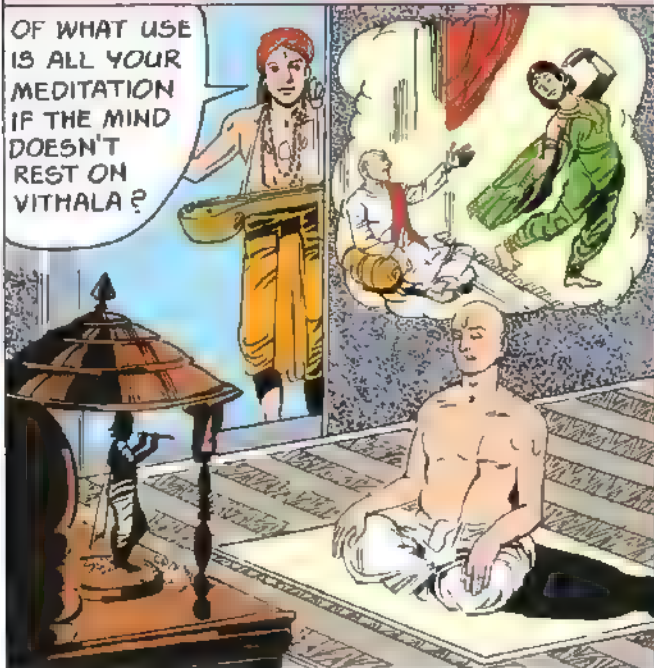
HE WOULD COMPLETE THE SONG, AND THE CROWD WOULD DANCE WITH HIM TO ITS TUNE.

...REPEAT THE SWEET NAME OF KRISHNA!



HE NOT ONLY SANG SONGS PRAISING GOD, BUT ALSO CONDEMNING HYPOCRISY.

OF WHAT USE IS ALL YOUR MEDITATION IF THE MIND DOESN'T REST ON VITHALA?



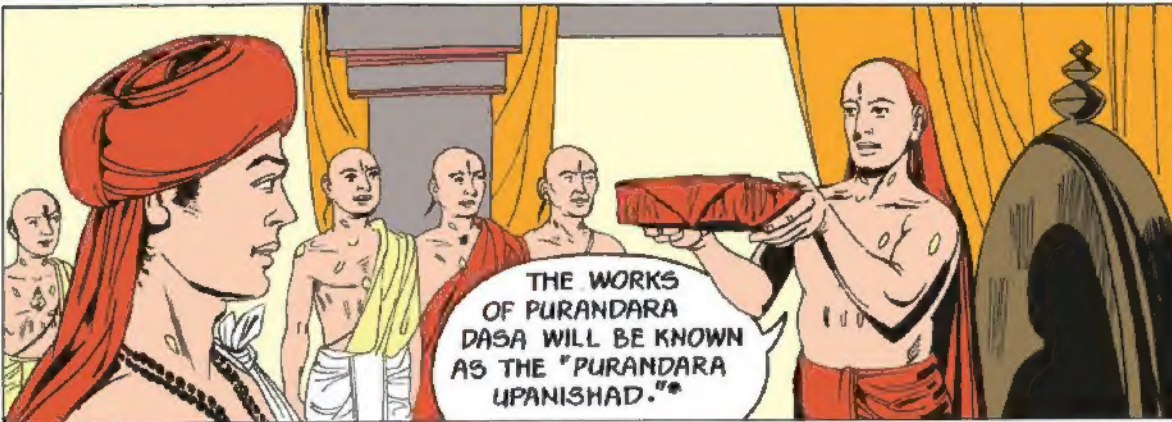
MASTER, YOU HAVE OPENED MY EYES!



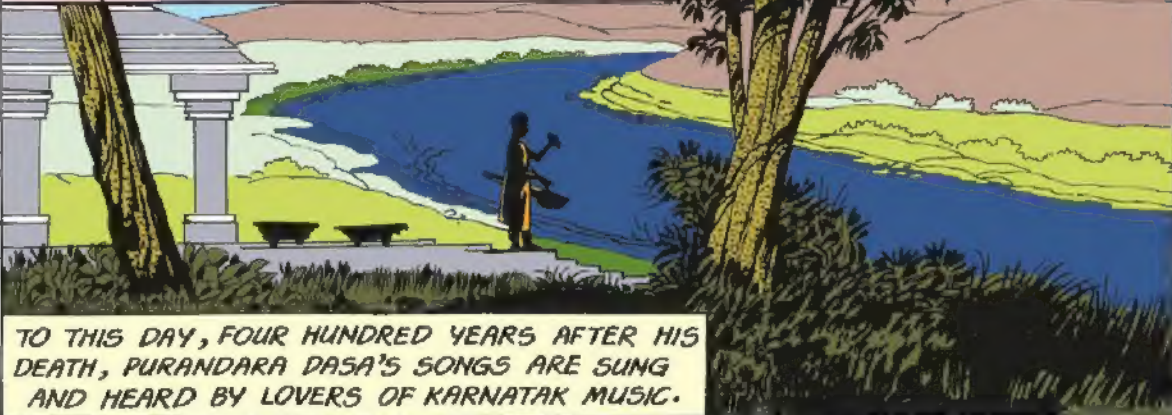
BUT NO SOONER HAD THE DISCIPLE KEPT THE WORKS ON THE FLOOR...



... THAN THEY SPRANG UP AND PLACED THEMSELVES ON THE VYASA PEETH.



PURANDARA DASA SPENT HIS LAST DAYS IN A RETREAT, SPECIALLY BUILT FOR HIM BY THE KING, ON A BANK OF THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA IN VIJAYANAGARA.



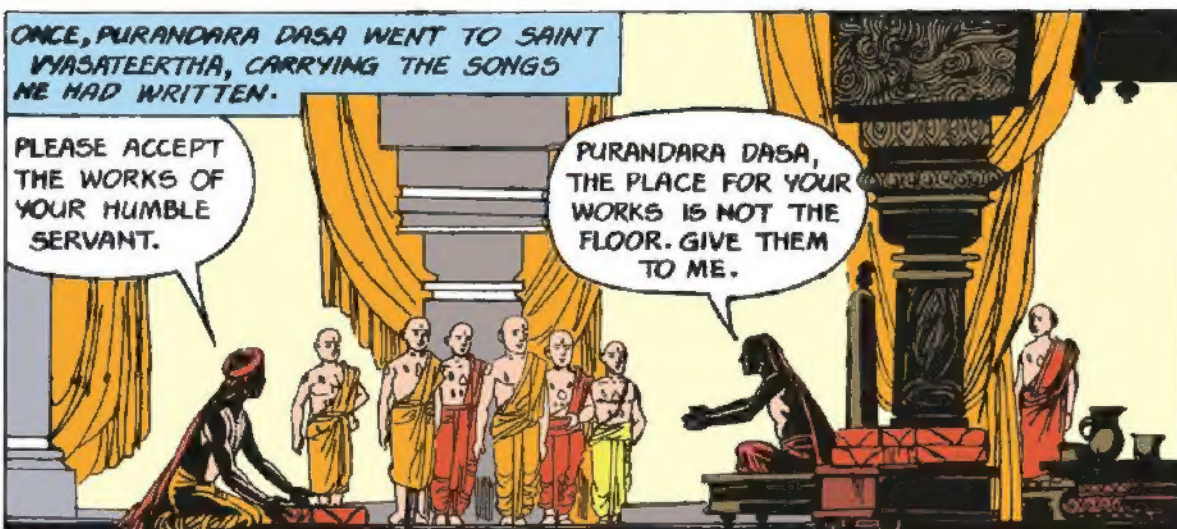
TO THIS DAY, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, PURANDARA DASA'S SONGS ARE SUNG AND HEARD BY LOVERS OF KARNATAK MUSIC.

* UPANISHADS ARE THE SACRED SCRIPTURES OF THE HINDUS WHICH DEAL WITH THE NATURE OF BRAHMAN.

ONCE, PURANDARA DASA WENT TO SAINT VYASATEERTHA, CARRYING THE SONGS HE HAD WRITTEN.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE WORKS OF YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.

PURANDARA DASA, THE PLACE FOR YOUR WORKS IS NOT THE FLOOR. GIVE THEM TO ME.

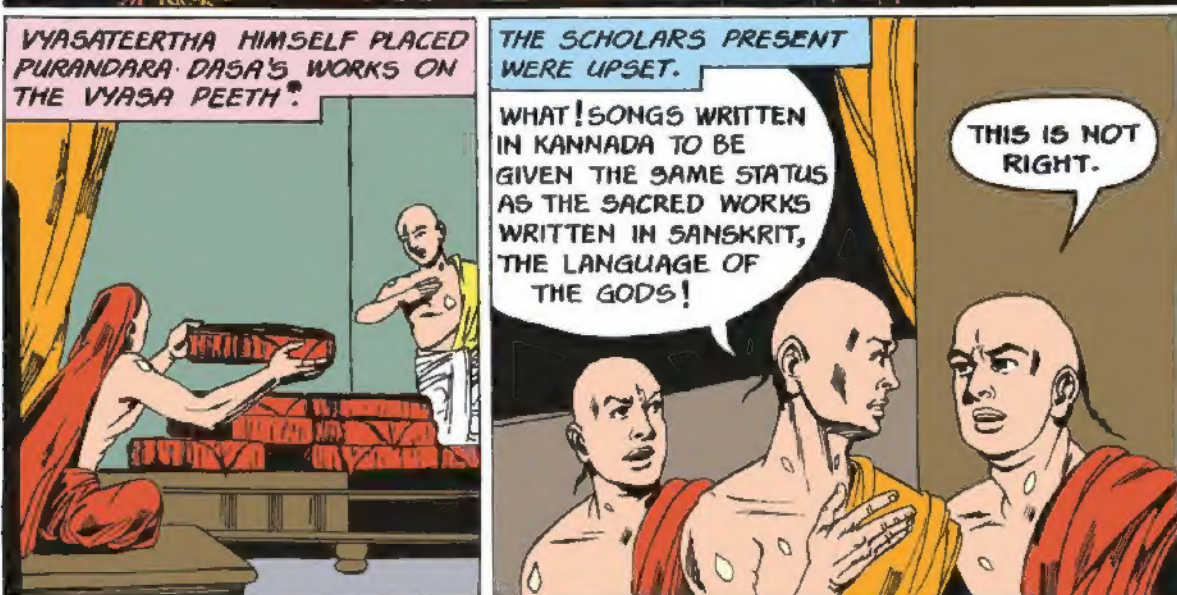


VYASATEERTHA HIMSELF PLACED PURANDARA DASA'S WORKS ON THE VYASA PEETH*.

THE SCHOLARS PRESENT WERE UPSET.

WHAT! SONGS WRITTEN IN KANNADA TO BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS THE SACRED WORKS WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT, THE LANGUAGE OF THE GODS!

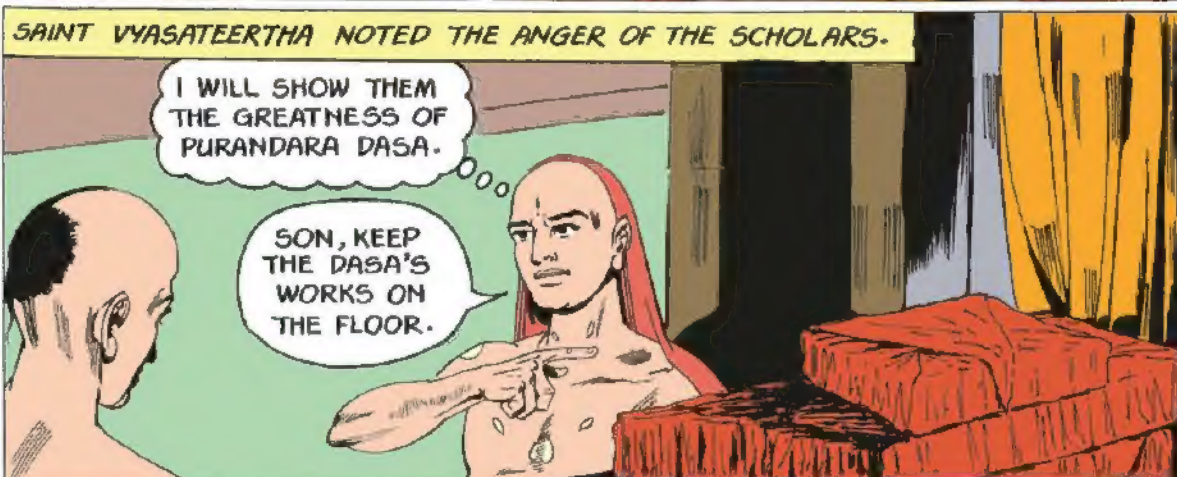
THIS IS NOT RIGHT.



SAINT VYASATEERTHA NOTED THE ANGER OF THE SCHOLARS.

I WILL SHOW THEM THE GREATNESS OF PURANDARA DASA.

SON, KEEP THE DASA'S WORKS ON THE FLOOR.



* RAISED PLATFORM ON WHICH THE TEACHER OF THE SCRIPTURES SITS OR THE SCRIPTURES ARE PLACED.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Anuruddha
Arjuni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrarasa
Dasharatha
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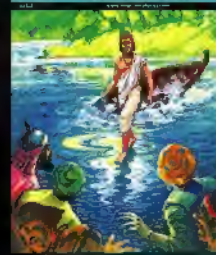
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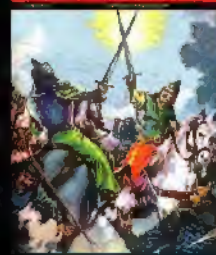
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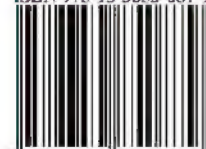
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